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UNCLAS DUBLIN 001028

SIPDIS

OES/OA JEAN-PIERRE PLE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EFIS](#) [SENV](#) [IWC](#)

SUBJECT: IRELAND IN AGREEMENT WITH US REGARDING MEETING OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

REF: STATE 145797

1. Summary. Irish IWC Commissioner O'Grady stated that Ireland's positions follow closely with all US positions mentioned in reftel. O'Grady, however, did elaborate on Ireland's positions regarding sanctuaries, and finance and administration. O'Grady stated that the GOI believes sanctuaries are undermined unless all IWC members agree to them; thus, Ireland will abstain on votes to create new sanctuaries unless there is consensus. O'Grady also stated the GOI shares the USG concern regarding the financial situation of the IWC and would advocate bi-annual meetings and the maintaining of English as the working language of the IWC to minimize costs. End Summary.

#### SANCTUARIES

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2. Emboff, drawing on reftel points, spoke on July 9 with Chris O'Grady, Director of National Parks and Wildlife at the Department of the Environment and Ireland's Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Regarding sanctuaries, O'Grady stated Ireland would abstain from all votes calling for the creation of new sanctuaries unless there is a consensus because the GOI believes sanctuaries are undermined unless IWC countries fully abide by them. O'Grady cited Japan as a prime example of a country that does not respect sanctuary boundaries. O'Grady also said that by abstaining the GOI wants to be seen as a country that favors conservation but also understands the concerns of countries that advocate increased whaling. This, the GOI hopes, will allow Ireland to be seen as a country that can facilitate agreement between opposing sides. He stated Ireland would continue to support the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.

#### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

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3. O'Grady stated that the GOI shares USG concerns regarding the IWC's financial situation. O'Grady stated that with new francophone members being admitted there may be a movement to implement translation of all IWC conferences and materials to other languages besides the working language of English. He stated that while the GOI understands the reasoning behind the possibly proposal, it would be concerned about the cost translation would entail. O'Grady also stated that he previously suggested that the IWC meet on a bi-annual basis as opposed to annually. Besides lowering costs, O'Grady suggested that this would give countries "time to catch their breath" before the next meeting, possibly reducing the polarization experienced at the present annual meetings. According to O'Grady, the Norwegians already expressed support to him for bi-annual meetings.

FORT